

## Become a Master Recycler Composter

### 8-week training starts September 21

Are you passionate about recycling, waste reduction, and composting? Would you like to make a difference in your community and help raise awareness about these important issues?

Join the Thurston County Master Recycler Composter (MRC) Volunteer Program!

### Volunteer Training Program

Each fall the MRC Program offers a several-week training for new members. Taught by recycling and composting experts, classes cover a range of topics specific to Thurston County and Washington State.

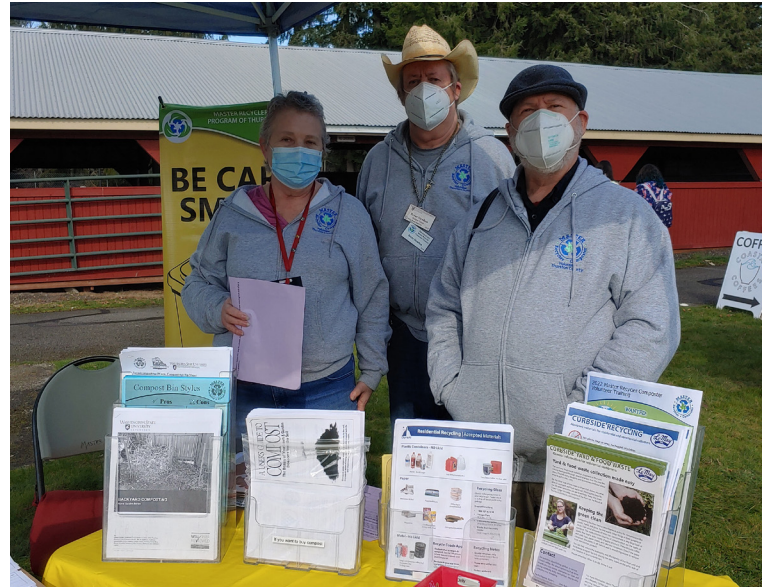
Anyone 18 years of age or older who lives, works, or operates a business in Thurston County can apply.

### You will learn:

- accepted materials vs. contamination
- waste prevention strategies
- recycling processes and markets
- greener purchasing choices
- composting methods
- ways to reduce food waste
- community outreach methods



MRC volunteers sift compost at a demonstration site.



MRC volunteers share recycling and composting information at a public outreach event.

The training also includes hands-on activities and field trips to processing facilities and compost demonstration gardens. You will see firsthand how recycling and composting systems work and gain knowledge that you can share with others.

### Certification Requirements

After graduating from the training, volunteers must complete an additional 25 hours of annual service and continuing education to keep their certification. Through various events and projects, MRCs provide localized, research-based information on recycling, waste reduction, and composting.

Learn more about the program and how to get involved:

<https://extension.wsu.edu/thurston/gardening/mc/thurston-county-master-recycler-composter-volunteer-training/>



# What's in our waste?

We sorted garbage for a year to find out

Thurston County worked with a consultant to study the contents of our garbage, recycling, and organics from 2022 to 2023.

## What we found

By sorting samples into 42 categories, we learned organics (food and yard waste) make up 23 percent of residential curbside garbage. That equals roughly 104 million pounds per year! Food waste alone was 15.6 percent of our household garbage, or 70.2 million pounds per year.



Workers sort garbage into more than 40 categories at the Waste and Recovery Center in Lacey.

## You have the power to help

Subscribe to curbside organics collection from your waste hauler. Call 360-923-0111 or visit [Thurston.lemayinc.com/](https://Thurston.lemayinc.com/) for details and pricing.



Bi-weekly organics collection at the curb allows you to keep both food and yard waste out of the landfill. You can even include meat, bones, dairy, and other animal products!

If you'd prefer to set up a compost pile at home, attend a free workshop on home composting by the Master Recycler Composter program: <https://extension.wsu.edu/thurston/gardening/composting/>.

Want to learn more about the 2022-2023 waste composition study? Read the full report online: <https://qrc0.de/2023CompStudy>.



## Questions?

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